

House Joint Resolution 2004 - Introduced

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2004
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1 A Joint Resolution proposing amendments to the Constitution
2 of the State of Iowa relating to term limits for elected
3 officials and terms of office for judges.
4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of
2 the State of Iowa is proposed:

3 Section 17 of Article V of the Constitution of the State of
4 Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

5 Sec. 17. **Terms — judicial elections.** Members of all courts
6 shall serve terms of eight years. Judges shall serve for one
7 year after appointment and until the first day of January
8 following the next judicial election after the expiration of
9 such year. They shall at such judicial election stand for
10 retention in office on a separate ballot which shall submit the
11 question of whether such judge shall be retained in office for
12 the tenure prescribed for such office and when such tenure is a
13 term of years, on their request, they shall, at the judicial
14 election next before the end of each term, stand again for
15 retention on such ballot. Present supreme court and district
16 court judges, at the expiration of their respective terms, may
17 be retained in office in like manner for the tenure prescribed
18 for such office. The general assembly shall prescribe the time
19 for holding judicial elections.

20 Sec. 2. The following amendment to the Constitution of the
21 State of Iowa is proposed:

22 Article XI of the Constitution of the State of Iowa is
23 amended by adding the following new section:

24 Sec. 9. **Term limits.** A person shall not be elected to a
25 term for any office in this state, including in any political
26 subdivision of this state, if the term would result in the
27 person serving more than a total of eight terms in that office.
28 If a person is elected to serve a portion of a term to which
29 some other person was elected, that portion of a term served
30 shall not be included in the terms of service for purposes
31 of this limitation if the person did not serve for at least
32 one-half of the full term of that office. This limitation on
33 terms of service applies to terms of office beginning on or
34 after January 1, 2025.

35 Sec. 3. **REFERRAL AND PUBLICATION.** The foregoing proposed

1 amendments to the Constitution of the State of Iowa are
2 referred to the general assembly to be chosen at the next
3 general election for members of the general assembly, and shall
4 be published as provided by law for three months previous to
5 the date of that election.

6 EXPLANATION

7 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
8 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

9 This joint resolution proposes two amendments to the
10 Constitution of the State of Iowa relating to term limits for
11 elected officials and terms of office for judges.

12 The first proposed amendment sets the term of office for all
13 judges in Iowa to eight years.

14 The second proposed amendment prohibits a person from being
15 elected to serve a term in any elected office in Iowa if the
16 term would result in the person serving more than eight terms
17 in that office. For the purposes of this limitation, a person
18 shall not be considered to have served a term if that person
19 was elected to serve a portion of a term and that person did
20 not serve at least one-half of the full term. This limitation
21 applies to terms of office beginning on or after January 1,
22 2025.

23 The resolution, if adopted, would be published and then
24 referred to the next general assembly (90th) for adoption,
25 before being submitted to the electorate for ratification.